you at 4 o'clock. (*Interruptions*)... Please go back. (*Interruptions*)... Go back. (*Interruptions*)... Sikander Bakhtji, they are going back. (*Interruptions*)... They are not turning back. (*Interruptions*)... They are not. (*Interruptions*)... They are agreeing. (*Interruptions*)... They are nice Members. They are very good people. (*Interruptions*)... They are very co-operative Members. They expresseed their unhappiness. They registered it. (*Interruptions*)... They are going back. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: According to the rules, the Question Hour is from 11.00 A.M. to 12 noon. Under what rule is the Question Hour moved from 11 o'clock to 3 o'clock? The Business Advisory Committee did not decide that the Question Hour should be at 3 o'clock. (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not discussing the Business Advisory Committee. (*Interruptions*)... Agarwalji, please don't argue. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not going on record. (*Interruptions*)... No. It is not going on record. (*Interruptions*)... I will allow. (*Interruptions*)... Please go back. (*Interruptions*)... You move a motion. Otherwise, I will sit here till 4 o'clock. Don't push me. I will sit here till 4 o' clock. (*Interruptions*)... Today is a special day. We talked about the Constitution of India. (*Interruptions*)... Go Back. (*Interruptions*)... सतीश अग्रवाल जी, आप तो बैठ जाइए। आप भी उन की तरह ऑब्जेक्ट कर रहे हैं क्या? Now you have put a question: why do we have the Question Hour in the evening? It is because of some special circumstances, as you know. You were there in the Central Hall of Parliament. That is why both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are having the Question Hour in the evening. But the basic reason is that the Members gave notice 20 days before for putting certain questions to the Government and they are waiting. Their names came in the ballot. You have not right to disallow them to put their questions. What difference will it make, if you wait for 45 minutes? I am giving you my word that I will allow you at 4 o'clock. The hon. Chairman has permitted it. I am giving my word that at 4 o'clock you speak on it and that is it. You should at least co-operate on such a day, a day of the establishment of the constitutent Assembly. Let us go ahead withthe Question Hour. Then at 4 o' clock you raise the issue. The question is the timing. (*Interruptions*)... No. (*Interruptions*)... There is nothing in favour and against. (*Interruptions*)... I will permit. (*Interruptions*)... Now please sit down. (*Interruptions*)... Question No. 243. It is looking very nice. (*Interruptions*). Just a minute. (*Interruptions*). Those Members who had some problem, have gone back. (*Interruptions*). Please keep quiet. (*Interruptions*). Question No. 243.

Comprehensive report on SC/ST Groups

*243 SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive report on SC/ST groups is being prepared and will be placed before Parliament;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, whether it will not be appropriate to prepare a new comprehensive report on the basis of new development of different castes?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (Shri M. Arunachalam): (a) to (c) Under Article 338 of the Constitution, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is required, inter-alia, to evaluate the progress of development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and to present reports on the working of the safeguards provided for them. Such reports are to be laid before

*Not recorded.

Parliament alongwith a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on their recommendations. The preparation of such reports is an ongoing process. Report for the period 1992-93 has been received and is being examined.

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: My main question is this, that in Manipur the 'Lois' community inhabited in 26 villages. But according to the decision of the Guwahati High Court, this area has been reduced to in eight villages. The Government of Manipur has also recommended only eight villages. In this respect, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the State Government can decide the area of the Scheduled Castes against the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, I need a specific notice on this question.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, where is the Minister of Welfare?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has taken permission and the Minister of Labour would reply to this question.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, I am very sorry. Last week, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta, who is a very senior leader, raised this issue. It was discussed in this House. When the Parliament is in Session, many Ministers are away. It is a disrespect to this House. Madam, kindly bring it to the notice of the Chairman. This kind of attitude by the Ministers should be condemned.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: At the moment, the Minister is answering the questions correctly and to the satisfaction of the questioner. We will seriously look into the matter later.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: If the hon. Minister conveys the sentiments to the Minister of Welfare, I will be very happy.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, grouping and regrouping of the Schedul34562tres and the Scheduled Tribes is done according to the Constitution. As far as the specific question which the hon. Member has put is concerned, I need a separate notice.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Angou Singh, do you want to ask one more supplementary? Or, shall I call another Member?

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Madam, the Minister has said that he requires a separate notice. Madam, the question is about the problems of the Scheduled Castes. I think this matter very much relates to this question. The State Government of Manipur has already recommended eight villages for the 'Lois' community. But 26 villages were inhabited by the 'Lois' community, They have been enjoying thier privileges for long. After the judgement of the Guwahati High Court, all the facilities have been withdrawn. The hoh. Minister must be knowing the position. I would like to know the actual position in this respect.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: We have not yet received the copy of the judgement delivered by the Supreme Court. We are awaiting copies of the judgement. The hon. Member's request will be passed on to my colleague who is away from Delhi. As soon as we receive the copy of the judgement, we will analyse it and do the needful.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Madam, the quetion arising from the answer is very simple. The report of the year 1992-93 is under consideration. We are entering the year 1997. We are not talking about Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The question refers to their welfare. The 1992-93 Report regarding their welfare is being considered by the Government. The whole period of the Five Year Plan has passed. What is the Government doing? You are considering the report of 1992-93. What is going

to happen to the report thereafter? What is the Government doing?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was set up in 1992. The first report was submitted and it was circulated to various departments. We are awaiting comments of various departments. After getting them, we will compile them and place them before the House.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Why were the other reports not placed before the House? The reports submitted after 1993 are not before the Government. How much time will the Department take to submit the report to the Government?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had submitted 30 reports. Of them, 29 reports have been placed before the House and they have been discussed. Likewise, the Commission also submitted eight reports which have been circulated and placed before the House. These have also been discussed. The new Commission was constituted in 1992. As I said, it has submitted its first report and it is being circulated and we will be placing it on the Table of the House.

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Is there any definite plan to increase the number of beneficiaries and to upgrade the merit of SC ant ST students for the post-matric scholarship given by the Central Government?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: I need a separate notice to answer this.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: I want to know when the report of 1992-93 was laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: I have said that it has been circulated to various departments and we are awaiting comments of the departments. As soon as we get them, we will place them on the Table of the House.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: As it is being delayed, we want an assurance from the Minister that it will be placed before the Parliament very soon.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is not the Minister concerned.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: It will be placed before the House at the earliest. I will pass on his concern to my colleague.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You ensure that the departments to which this has been circulated, send their comments immediately so that it can be placed before the House as soon as possible.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Yes, madam.

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Is there any proposal with the Government to include the Fishermen community in Scheduled Tribes? I came to know that in 1970, the Government had introduced a Bill to include the Fishermen community in Scheduled Tribes. I want to know whether there is any such proposal.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, as of now, I have no information. I will ask my colleague to reply to him in writing.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Remember the number of the question and write to him.

*244[The Questioner (Shri Ahmed Patel) was absent. For answer, vide col. .....infra]

Smuggling of Cardamom from Guatemala

*245. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI JOY NADUKKARA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: